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## EPA Proposes Increasing Farm Worker Protections From Pesticides

*Posted February 20, 2014, 4:09 P.M. ET*

A proposed rule expanding requirements for protecting farm workers and their families from pesticides (RIN 2070-AJ22) was released Feb. 20 by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Jim Jones, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, told reporters that changes to the EPA's Agriculture Worker Protection Standard were overdue. "We can't turn our back on the people who feed the nation," he said.

The notice of proposed rulemaking should appear in the Federal Register within the next 10 days, starting a 90-day comment period, Jones said. The agency hopes to have a final rule available in a year.

Among the new or tougher restrictions proposed are:

- increased frequency of mandatory trainings from once every five years to annually; and
- expanded mandatory posting of no-entry signs for the most hazardous pesticides with the signs prohibiting entry into pesticide-treated fields until residues decline to a safe level.